



# Manistee County Board of Commissioners

Manistee County Courthouse • 415 Third Street • Manistee, Michigan 49660

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## **MANISTEE COUNTY GREEN TEAM/RECYCLING COMMITTEE**

Friday, October 22, 2010  
10:30 A.M.

Manistee County Courthouse & Government Center  
Board of Commissioners Meeting Room

### **AGENDA**

- 1) Gail Windpower Project ([www.gailwindspower.com](http://www.gailwindspower.com)) - Allan O'Shea
- 2) Discussion Regarding Michigan Energy Fair
- 3) Information from Commissioner Jim Krolczyk on Trash in Lake Michigan (APPENDIX A)
- 4) Other Items from Committee Members
- 5) Adjournment

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\*\* Information from Commissioner Jim Krolczyk. September 2010 \*\*

## SEWAGE

### Main culprit is combined sewers

Food wrappers, cigar tips, tampons, syringes and woody debris are washing up on west Michigan shores again in what looks to be a repeat of the summer of 2008, when tons of "mystery trash" fouled shorelines there.

The U.S. Coast Guard says it continues to investigate the 2008 pollution, but after nearly two years has failed to identify the source. Now the pressure is on.

In late July, torrential rains struck again, and some 8.5 billion gallons of sewage mixed with storm water and the street litter it ferries was flushed into Lake Michigan - more than 2 billion gallons from Milwaukee topped by another 6.5 billion gallons from Chicago.

Though it's not clear exactly who's to blame for Michigan's latest trash problem, one thing is clear: It's disgusting. It's also unacceptable, coming 40 years after passage of the federal Clean Water Act.

And it's not just a local problem. A new report analyzing government data from five Great Lakes cities - Detroit, Cleveland, Buffalo, Milwaukee and Gary, Ind. - found that together they discharged 41 billion gallons of untreated sewage and storm water into the lakes from January 2009 through January 2010.

The main culprit: combined sewer systems that collect and treat both storm water and sanitary sewage, and that are often overwhelmed by heavy rains. Solving this problem requires a combination of investments in gray infrastructure, such as Milwaukee and Chicago's Deep Tunnel projects, and green infrastructure - parks, trees, rain gardens, wetlands and green roofs - to capture and cleanse storm water.

With climate change predicted to deliver rain to the region in more frequent flooding downpours, the Great Lakes need an equal measure of carrot and stick: dollars to deliver climate-ready, 21st century sewage solutions and regulators willing to enforce those solutions if communities don't step up.

**Joel Brammeier**  
President & CEO  
Alliance for the Great Lakes  
*Chicago*

**Traverse City Record Eagle**

**Editorial: Lake trash unacceptable**

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For more than a week, waste has washed up on Lake Michigan beaches from Oceana County north to Frankfort, including medical waste such as syringes found amid the junk in some of the southern counties.

It was a repeat, though to a lesser extent, to waves of garbage that rolled onto a 200-mile stretch of Lake Michigan beaches — from as far south as Saugatuck to as far north as Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore — in 2008.

It's a frustrating and potentially dangerous situation for Michigan residents who have to pick up the mess, including bottles, straws, cups, cigarette butts and syringes. Communities here bear the cost and residents take the risk, yet the source of the garbage has apparently never been found, despite lots of evidence pointing the way.

In 2008 some of what washed up here included labels and addresses from the Milwaukee area. This year, there is speculation that the junk was the result of a major combined sewer overflow in the Milwaukee area in late July.

So what does it take to stop this? As it did in 2008, the U.S. Coast Guard has said it is continuing to investigate the source of the material, but hasn't yet identified its origin. That year, the Coast Guard even said it was putting intelligence agents on the case, and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality's medical waste program also was in on the investigation.

A Milwaukee Department of Public Works spokeswoman in 2008 said it was a mystery to them, too, and their probe had hit a dead end. The city sanitation department doesn't haul residential waste to landfills near the lakefront and doesn't license barges to carry garbage on the Great Lakes. The junk that rolled onto a Manistee city beach in 2008 — where they hauled off 12 cubic yards of stuff one morning — included a "No Dumping Allowed" sign from the Milwaukee County Park Commission. Not enough of a clue, apparently.

Ironically, the trashing of the lake comes at a time when many pollution sources — perhaps most — around the lake have been identified and shut down. Not all of them, of course, but most.

Water quality in Grand Traverse Bay, for instance, has improved greatly in recent years, though e-coli problems with runoff after heavy rains continue to be a concern. Most of the places where sewage or floor drains ran right into the bay are a thing of the past.

High water in Wisconsin may have contributed to some of the flotsam from across the lake but that's no excuse; we can't end up with trashed beaches every time heavy rains hit Milwaukee or anyplace else on the lake. They have to do better.

**From:** William E. Sundstrom (wes@rsbattorneys.com)  
**To:** trombonemsu@yahoo.com;  
**Date:** Sat, September 11, 2010 11:19:59 AM  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** Lake Michigan Beaches

**Dear Commissioner Krolczyk** – I read with much interest your comments as reported in the Manistee News Advocate relative to trash on the Lake Michigan beaches. Please see my attached letter to the County Prosecutor and Sheriff in this regard.

I am a member of the Michigan Bar and a beachfront property owner in Manistee County, as you can see from my letter. I am mad as hell about the failure of the Coast Guard, et al., to take this situation seriously. Michigan law provides that a citizen may sue the state, or any local unit of government, as a "private attorneys general" to enforce the environmental laws. Michigan law further provides for payment of that lawyer's time and costs in this regard, in certain circumstances. My letter attached is the first step in preparing to file such suit, if necessary. There are similar federal statutes, although their application is not as broad as state law.

I encourage your Board of Commissioners to follow up with your County Sheriff and Prosecuting Attorney in this regard.

For your information, I will be in Manistee County starting this Thursday and will be there virtually continuously until the end of October. If you would like to discuss this matter with me further, you may call me here in my office [toll free] at 1-888-877-6555 or at my home on Lake Michigan at 8898-6555.

My best,

Bill Sundstrom.

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----- Original Message -----

**From:** Jim K  
**To:** William E. Sundstrom  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 11, 2010 11:38 AM  
**Subject:** Fw: Lake Michigan trash.

This is the letter I emailed you about. Please comment when you have a chance. Thanks, Jim

----- Forwarded Message -----

**From:** Paul & Ginny Bosschem <[pgboss@hughes.net](mailto:pgboss@hughes.net)>  
**To:** [trombonemsu@yahoo.com](mailto:trombonemsu@yahoo.com)  
**Sent:** Thu, September 9, 2010 8:15:59 PM  
**Subject:** Lake Michigan trash.

Jim: Read the article in the paper with great interest. I think I know a person in the federal government that might be able to help you or put pressure on the people that can. Her name is Lana Pollack. She is a past senator and this last summer has been appointed by Obama to be co-chairing and international commission that protects US/Canada boundary waters. When I heard this I talked to her about the Asian carp and she told me it was on her agenda yesterday, today and will be tomorrow. I asked what her job was and she told me she was in charge of all the great lakes or the federal government and reporting to the president. I have emailed her a couple of times and she has always gotten right back to me. Enclose is her address, email, and phone numbers

I met her at my wife's class reunion [50] in Ludington. Lana is a Ludington Girl and she and her husband have a condo on the waterfront in Ludington.

Lana Pollack Her maiden name was Schoenberger.  
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Sincerely

Paul Bosschem

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**From:** Jim K (trombonemsu@yahoo.com)  
**To:** lanapollack1@gmail.com;  
**Date:** Sun, September 12, 2010 3:22:07 PM  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** Beach Garbage

Dear Lana Pollack,

My name is Jim Krolczyk, a Manistee Kid, and now in my old age am a Manistee County Commissioner. Just completing my first term and running again unopposed. I represent the 6th District, which is one-half of the city of Manistee.

Two years ago, the city was hit by tons of garbage along our beaches. Not only the city beaches but along beaches in every township that borders Lake Michigan. The city got hit the hardest and hauled tons of garbage to the landfill by dump trucks.

It is now happening again. In early August Western Michigan and all of Lake Michigan was hit by a severe rain storm, esp. Chicago and Milwaukee. About 2 weeks after the storm we started to again get garbage from our Wisconsin and Chicago friends. This time it was not bad in the city beaches, however garbage was present all along our county shoreline....some worse than others.

I am on a one man mission to stop the trash or get \$ help from the source. I have talked to the USCG, EPA, Alliance for the Great Lakes, and the National Response System and anyone else who would listen. I also informed our local newspaper and gave my findings in an article in the Sept. 9th edition.

That article found its way to some friends of yours, Paul & Ginny Bosschem. Paul sent me an email and advised me to contact you. That is why I am writing this email. I am happy to introduce myself and reason to ask for help if you think you can. If you like I can send you by US Mail what I have.

I understand you are a Ludington Girl and a Schoenberger Kid!!!! Well, I wear a Dress on the week-end, (play with the Scottville Clown Band)!! So, here we are, friends already!!

Thanks for your time, Jim Krolczyk

**From:** William E. Sundstrom (wes@rsbattorneys.com)  
**To:** trombonemsu@yahoo.com;  
**Date:** Sun, September 12, 2010 11:13:01 AM  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** Re: Lake Michigan trash.

Commissioner, no I am talking about Lana Pollack as the first point of contact. See the attached, which follows up on the suggestion from Mr. Bosschem below. No harm in following up with the Coast Guard at the same time, however. We called the Coast Guard from our offices and asked the name of the Milwaukee Commandant, so that we could write him/her a letter, and were told that the name is some sort of state secret [in the name of Homeland Security] if you can possibly fathom such BS.

I will be in Michigan from September 16th to 20th, but I must return to Florida that day in order to make a important meeting here on the 21st, so I just can not attend your September 21st meeting. When is your next one after that?

I grew up in Cadillac and graduated from MSU in 1971. Go Green.